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Filed : June 30, 2001

sealing element comes into closing contact with the first valve seat owing to force of the first resilient element,

a second valve seat is provided and co-operates with the sealing element which can be actuated by the clapper armature, and

the first and the second resilient element and the electromagnet co-operate in such a manner that, when the electromagnet is excited, the force of the first resilient element is counteracted by the clapper armature and the sealing element is moved into closing contact with the second valve seat owing to force of the second resilient element and, when the electromagnet is not excited, the sealing element comes into closing contact with the first valve seat owing to the force of the first resilient element.

#### REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the cited Schiel reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,840,193) in view of the cited Winter reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,339) further in view of the cited Nestler et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,040,567). The Examiner indicated that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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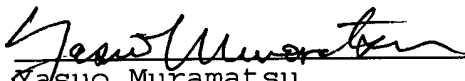
Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the limitation in Claim 4. Applicant has canceled Claim 4. The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to reflect the change in Claim 1 noted above.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are in condition for allowance, and accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

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By:   
Yasuo Muramatsu  
Registration No. 38,684  
Attorney of Record  
7700 Irvine Center Drive  
Suite 225, Irvine, CA 92618  
(949) 753-1127

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